

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-5, 8-13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shafron (7107548).

Re claim 1, Shafron discloses a method comprising:

(a) generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example), the add-ons comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program for example); and

(b) in response to user input, managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controlling using the controlling software program, see abstract for example) by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example);

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example);

(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on (updates and recontacts the section of add-on unless disabled or closed, see abstract, column 2 lines 23-25 and column 16 lines 12-17 for example);

(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example); and

(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example).

Re claim 2, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX.RTM. controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions (see column 3 line 14 for example).

Re claim 3, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX.RTM. controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX.RTM. controls, in response to user input (dynamically, see column 1 lines 14-15 and column 2 lines 23-25 for example).

Re claim 4, Shafron discloses a method, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method

further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input (see column 15 lines 43-47 for example).

Re claim 5, Shafron discloses a method, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example).

Re claim 8, Shafron discloses a method, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program (see column 2 lines 38-42 and column 3 lines 30-37 for example).

Re claim 9, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium comprising: generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example); the computer-executable instructions including instructions that, when executed, cause said data processing device to :

(a) generate a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example) and

(b) in response to user input, manages the enable/disable state of said add-ons (controllable user interface with information or functionality using controlling software program, see abstract for example) by:

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons (see column 2 lines 38-42 and abstract for example);

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example);

(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on (updates and recontacts the section of add-on unless disabled or closed, see abstract, column 2 lines 23-25 and column 16 lines 12-17 for example);

(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example); and

(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on (see column 3 lines 8-10 for example).

Re claim 10, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said add-ons are chosen from the group comprising ActiveX.RTM. controls, browser helper objects, and toolbar extensions (see column 3 line 14 for example).

Re claim 11, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said add-ons include ActiveX.RTM. controls, and wherein the method further comprises updating said ActiveX.RTM. controls, in response to user input (dynamically see column 1 lines 14-15 and column 2 lines 23-25 for example).

Re claim 12, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-denied add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises prohibiting the enablement of said administrator-denied add-ons in response to user input (see column 15 lines 43-47 for example).

Re claim 13, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein at least some of said add-ons are included in an explicit list of administrator-approved add-ons, and wherein the method further comprises allowing the disablement of said administrator-approved add-ons in response to user input (see column 16 lines 12-17 for example).

Re claim 16, Shafron discloses a computer-readable storage medium, wherein said user interface includes at least one list of add-ons chosen from the group of lists comprising add-ons that have been used by the application program, add-ons currently loaded for use with the application program, and add-ons currently blocked for use with the application program (see column 2 lines 38-42 and column 3 lines 30-37 for example).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 6, 7, 14,15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shafron in view of Bloomberg et al. (20020196279).

Re claim 6, Shafron substantially discloses a method as set forth in claim 1 above. Shafron does not explicitly disclose, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons. However, Bloomberg et al. teaches of wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons (need to authenticate, see paragraph 0038 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons as taught by Bloomberg et al. on the method of Shafron in order to provide privacy in information provided in the add-on.

Re claim 7, Shafron substantially discloses a method as set forth in claim 1 above. Shafron does not explicitly disclose, wherein said user interface identifies add-

ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed. However, Bloomberg et al. teaches of wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed (see paragraph 0039 and 0044 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed as taught by Bloomberg et al. on the method of Shafron in order to provide privacy in information provided more information about the add-on.

Re claim 14, Shafron substantially discloses a computer-readable storage medium as set forth in claim 9 above. Shafron does not explicitly disclose, wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons. However, Bloomberg et al. teaches of wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a user's ability to manage the add-ons (need to authenticate, see paragraph 0038 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein an administrator of the application program has the capacity to disable a

user's ability to manage the add-ons as taught by Bloomberg et al. on the method of Shafron in order to provide privacy in information provided in the add-on.

Re claim 15, Shafron substantially discloses a computer-readable storage medium as set forth in claim 9 above. Shafron does not explicitly disclose, wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed. However, Bloomberg et al. teaches of wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed (see paragraph 0039 and 0044 for example). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have wherein said user interface identifies add-ons by displaying information selected from the group comprising the name of the add-on, the publisher of the add-on, the status of the add-on, the type of add-on, and the time when the add-on was lastly accessed as taught by Bloomberg et al. on the method of Shafron in order to provide privacy in information provided more information about the add-on.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jinhee J. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-1977. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F at 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-2100 ext. 74. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jinhee J Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174

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